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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

Outcast: Antiheroic Fantasy

Sword and sorcery heroes have waged savage battle against zombies and assorted undead antagonists almost as long as the genre has existed... but it's usually the bad guys who are the zombies.

Boom Studios publisher *Ross Richie* wondered what would happen if things were turned around, however. What if it were the sword and sorcery hero who found himself a member of the undead? And thus ***Outcast*** was born.

Michael Alan Nelson, a writer who first displayed his sword and sorcery chops with Boom's ***Robert E. Howard's Hawks of Outremer*** limited series, explains how he ended up chronicling the adventures of n undead king on a quest for his soul. "The genesis of ***Outcast*** was actually Ross Richie's idea. We were sitting around talking one day and he mentioned the idea of a zombie king in search of his soul. And, as I am wont to do, I started pitching out story ideas and some off-the-cuff world building. The more we talked about it, the cooler the idea became. By the end of the conversation we had both realized that I had to write the story."

The zombie king is Valen Brand, a just king and a valiant warrior who died at the hands of a necromancer, only to be brought back as a zombie. Of course, he's not your typical foot-dragging groaning-and-grunting brain-eating zombie; instead, he's quite aware of his state. "Valen actually has full autonomy, but he had to earn that," Nelson explained. "That is something that becomes clear after the first few pages of ***Outcast #1***. He wasn't supposed to have any kind of self-determination at all. He was supposed to be in the thrall of the necromancer who had taken his soul, but somehow Valen found a way to circumvent the Necromancer's control."

Nelson explained that, "even though Valen is undead, I hesitate to call him a zombie. To me, the word 'zombie' implies a sense of mindlessness. But Valen is by no means mindless. Perhaps the best way to think of him would be more along the lines of a vampire or lich: undead but with his full faculties.

"Cognitively, he is still the man he once was. And that's one of the things I find most exciting about his character. He used to be a king, a warrior, diplomat, tactician. He is so much more than a grunting, mindless corpse swinging a big sword. And that makes him so much more fun to write and, hopefully, to read about as well."

Why was Valen resurrected to begin with, and why is he not "in thrall" to the necromancer who raised him from the dead? "That is a *very* good question," Nelson said, "but you'll have to read the book to find out why he isn't in thrall to the necromancer. I'll give you a hint, though. There's a reason the "O' in Outcast logo is designed

the way it is. Trust me, once you read the first issue, it will make perfect sense.

"As to why the necromancer stole his soul and turned this once-great king into an undead thrall—well, that's one of the mysteries of the series. But the necromancer *definitely* had a reason."

Like many works of fantasy, ***Outcast*** is ultimately a quest tale—but in this case, the object of the quest is Valen's soul. Is there a force actively working to thwart him in this goal? "There are *several* forces working against him," Nelson said. "The great necromancer, Korrus Null, is obviously trying to stop Valen from getting his soul back. But there are also dozens of others who are vying for Valen's now-empty throne. If one of them is able to crown themselves king, it wouldn't do to have Valen someday come back and take it away.

"Not to mention that he *is* an outcast. The people of this world see him as an abomination and believe that the world would be better without him. Everyone wants Valen gone. That makes the world very difficult for him to navigate.

"Valen believes that he must travel to Wraithendal, home of the necromancer and take the soul back from him. Whether or not it's there is something he will discover when, or if, he ever gets to Wraithendal. But I do know that he has a very long road to travel before he can find out the answer."

Does Valen have allies in his quest, or have all who knew him rejected him know that he is one of the undead? "He does have companions, but I would call them reluctant allies," Nelson said. "There's Cordovan, a flippant smuggler with a drinking problem who's not terribly fond of Valen due to a previous encounter between the two of them. And there's Zjanna, a self-exiled woman with her own unique issues. She also has a past with Valen, but their past was a bit more...complicated as they say. But even though Valen has these companions, he's still very much alone. He was once a beloved king and now is shunned by everyone, an outcast."

Nelson explains that ***Outcast*** is more than a sword and sorcery adventure; he prefers to compare it to more complex fantasy sagas such as *George R.R. Martin's* ***Game of Thrones***. "Sword and Sorcery is a specific genre under the general fantasy umbrella wherein it most often deals with a single, sword-wielding character who goes forth to kill things across the land (if any editors or better-informed readers out there have a better or more thorough definition, please chime in). While ***Outcast*** certainly fits that mold, it will also branch out into a larger, more high-fantasy world where numerous characters are all vying for power and position in this upturned world. This lends itself to the ***Game of Thrones*** style of political intrigue and underlying machinations of the characters involved rather than just a big guy with a big sword killing different things issue to issue. And who knows? There may even be a little romance in there from time to time!..."

Outcast is illustrated by *Matteo Scalera*, who brings a powerful sense of design and dynamic layout to the book. Scalera, best known to American readers for his work on Image's ***Hyperkinetic*** and Marvel's ***Deadpool Team-Up***, explained how he developed his skills. "I studied in an art school in my hometown, Parma, Italy, and then I attended a School of Comics in Milan. The first one was really useful to learn the basis of art, such as anatomy, composition, shadows theory, architecture and perspective, color theory... In the second one, I learned all of the basic rules for creating comic books, like storytelling, how to manage panels and balloons, etc."

Was Scalera a sword and sorcery/fantasy fan before landing the ***Outcast*** assignment? "In general, I like the genre. Conan is definitely a must. But, to be honest, I'm not a huge expert in this field. I don't think I've ever drawn anything like this before. This was probably the most attractive thing for me when the guys at Boom approached me about the project, since I think that new things are always more challenging.

"The first thing I did after reading the script was find a lot of movies like the ***13th Warrior, Valhalla Rising, Solomon Kane, Pathfinder*** and others to look at and take visual inspiration from. I really had fun doing that, and I've learned a lot at the same time. Hopefully it will show off in the book as well!"

Scalera's artistic inspiration reflects his European background. "*Alberto Breccia's* art has a special place in my heart. I can say the same for *Sergio Toppi's* art. Also, *Jorge Zaffino, John Paul Leon, Massimo Carnevale, Sean Murphy* ,and *Eric Canete* are great inspirations to me. But I could name at least three hundred other incredible artists that never cease to amaze me. I always try to follow them through the work they're doing.

"Ultimately, I have to say that my artistic inspiration is the world. I think that for every artist there's nothing better than looking all around you to learn things and get better at drawing. The more you understand the reality that surrounds you, the better you'll get in everything. And I also have to say that this could work for every field, not just the artistic one."

Boom is so confident in ***Outcast*** that they're giving the book a major promotional push, complete with a $1 first issue. What convinced them that this book was right for that level of promotion? "In this economic environment we know fans are often reluctant to try new original series but it's one of the things that Boom! does best, as we proved with ***Irredeemable*** and ***Incorruptible***," Boom Marketing Coordinator *Emily McGuinness* said. "We have such an outstanding team on this book with the award-winning writer *Michael Alan Nelson* and ***Deadpool*** artist Matteo Scalera and such a great story to tell, we knew we had to get it out there at a price that puts our money where our mouths are. We want to encourage readers to delve into a great book and discover something new."

Boom is confident that ***Outcast*** will appeal to both fantasy fans and zombie enthusiasts. "We have great elements of both genres in ***Outcast***, all topped with a creamy layer of vengeance!" McGuinness said. "We even think fans of superheroes like Wolverine and The Punisher will find something to like in ***Outcast***.

"And did I mention we're doing a ground-breaking variant? Classic Conan artist *Joe Jusko* did a *killer* cover that we're printing as a variant that's *exclusively* available as a CGC-slabbed comic, guaranteed in 9.8 condition! I don't think any mainstream full color publisher has *ever* offered such a limited-run exclusive, especially featuring such a high caliber name artist! There won't be many of this one available at all!"

Outcast #1, a $1 comic featuring 22 full pages of story and art that launches the ongoing monthly series, will be offered with four standard covers by *Liam Sharp, Cary Nord, Ale Garza,* and *Trevor Hairsine* in a 30/30/30/10 split; a 1-for-25 incentive by *Chad Hardin;* a 1-for-50 incentive by *Trevor Hairsine;* a 1-for-75 incentive by *Ale Garza;* and the aforementioned CGC-graded 1-for-200 incentive by *Joe Jusko.*

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Coming Comics—DC in January

As the assault from an alien threat takes a turn for the worse for Metropolis, keys facts about Superman's past are brought to light for the first time in ***Action Comics #5*** by *Grant Morrison, Andy Kubert, & Jesse Delperdang.* This issue is also offered in a polybagged edition complete with a digital download code.

Jonah Hex and Amadeus Arkham face off against a gang of kidnappers beneath Gotham City in ***All-Star Western #5*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Moritat.*

With Ellen and Cliff's lives hanging in the balance, Buddy finally faces off against The Hunters Three in ***Animal Man #5*** by *Jeff Lemire, Travel Foreman, & Jeff Huet.* But the fight doesn't *quite* go as planned...

Talk about your unjust deserts! In ***Aquaman #5***, *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Joe Prado* dump Aquaman in the middle of the desert! As Aquaman struggles to survive impossible odds, what extreme measures will he resort to in order to stay alive?

In ***Batgirl #5*** by *Gail Simone, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes,* Batgirl goes on the hunt for the terrifying killer Gretel, whose eerie and violent power over the men of Gotham City leaves no one safe – not even guest star Bruce Wayne!

Deep beneath Gotham City lies the Court of Owls' deadliest trap – and Batman has fallen right into it! Can he escape, or will he perish in a maze of nightmare? Watch the Dark Knight enter the labyrinth in ***Batman #5*** by *Scott Snyder, Greg Capullo, & Jonathan Glapion.* This issue is also offered in a polybagged edition complete with a digital download code.

Batman and Robin's relationship gets pushed to the breaking point in *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Mick Gray's* ***Batman and Robin #5*** as Nobody insinuates himself into Damian's life and tries to make him see that Bruce's plan to battle crime is hopeless – and only by tapping into Damian's killer instinct can they ever hope to rid Gotham City of its evil roots.

In *Paul Jenkins, David Finch, & Richard Friend's* ***Batman: The Dark Knight #5,*** a dark figure from Batman's past returns– the one adversary The Dark Knight truly fears.

After the horrors Batwoman has faced, she has a final showdown with The Weeping Woman, a specter with the power to dredge up Kate's deepest pain, in *J.H. Williams III & W. Haden Blackman's* ***Batwoman #5*** – a specter with the power to dredge up Kate's deepest pain. Can she finally forgive herself so she can dispel this evil?

Three of the Blackhawks are incapacitated with injuries, and two more are stranded in outer space in ***Blackhawks #5*** by *Mike Costa, CAFU, & Bit.* The team has suffered a serious beating, but they still have one more crazy, hail Mary stunt up their sleeve!..

Catwoman is flying solo in *Judd Winick & Guillem March's* ***Catwoman #5...*** but has her paws full when a simple smash and grab turns into a hit and pummeled, as she faces a new adversary, Reach, who is more than a match for Selina.

Deadman's quest to find meaning in his mission and salvation for the spirits of those he has possessed comes ot an end in ***DC Universe Presents #5,*** courtesy of *Paul Jenkins & Bernard Chang.* Deadman thinks he finally has the upper hand on his boss, Rama, but he'll soon learn that when it comes to dealing with a god, there's no such thing.

There's been a series of assassinations in the criminal underworld – and The Penguin is among Batman's first suspects! But when seemingly ordinary women become part of the killings, Batman discovers a common denominator that leads him on the trail of a vicious killer in *Tony Daniel & Sandu Florea's* ***Detective Comics #5...*** and he's particularly interested in stopping that killer before he takes out Bruce Wayne's girlfriend, investigative reporter Charlotte Rivers!

Iris West captive in Iron Heights prison! But will the Flash be able to help her while he's also struggling to save the life of his old friend Manuel Lago from Mob Rule, DC Comics' hottest new Super Villain? Find out in ***The Flash #5*** by *Francis Manapul & Brian Buccellato.*

When Checkmate fails to bring the rogue metahuman O.M.A.C. under control, they call in S.H.A.D.E.'s best agent, Frankenstein! It's all-out monster mayhem as O.M.A.C. and Frank battle in the streets of Metropolis in ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE #5*** by *Jeff Lemire & Alberto Ponticelli.*

The mysterious Zither pits Ronnie and Jason against each other in ***The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men #5*** by *Gail Simone, Ethan Van Sciver, Yildiray Cinar, & Norm Rapmund.*

What secret from Green Arrow's past fuels Midas's rage, and how does it all tie in to the enigmatic woman known only as Blood Rose? Find out in ***Green Arrow #5*** by *Keith Giffen, Dan Jurgens, & Ray McCarthy.*

Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy present the conclusion to Sinestro and Hal Jordan's invasion of the planet Korugar in ***Green Lantern #5*** Can these two enemies cooperate long enough to liberate the world from the tyranny of the Sinestro Corps?

Guy Gardner must assemble a strike force to invade the genocidal Keeper's dimension and rescue his imprisoned teammates, John Stewart and Vandor! And Guy's recruits are the nastiest Green Lanterns to ever put on a ring! Meet 'em in ***Green Lantern Corps #5*** by *Peter Tomasi, Fernando Pasarin, & Scott Hanna.*

A spacecraft the size of a solar system is on a collision course with Oa, home of the Guardians! As the AWOL Green Lantern Kyle Rayner and members of each of the different Corps make their way to the alien vessel, deep within the ship, the creature known as Seraphon stirs in ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #5*** by *Tony Bedard & Tyler Kirkham.*

Hawk and Dove are in a race to rescue Deadman from the clutches of Condor and Swan in ***Hawk & Dove #5*** by *Sterling Gates & Rob Liefeld.* Can they find him before Deadman lives up to his name for good?

The war of the vampires comes to Batman's doorstep in ***I, Vampire #5*** by *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Andrea Sorrentino.* The Queen of Blood has deadly plans for the citizens of Gotham City—but before Andrew can stop her, he must face The Dark Knight!

In *Geoff Johns & Jim Lee's* ***Justice League #5,*** the group of individual heroes, with the teenaged powerhouse Cyborg at their side, must somehow put their differences aside to face the terror of Darkseid.

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

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Enchantress is out of control and more powerful than ever. Will Madame Xanadu, John Constantine, Shade the Changing Man, Zatanna, Mindwarp, Deadman and June Moon be able to work together to defeat her? One thing is certain: One of these heroes will not survive the events of ***Justice League Dark #5*** by *Peter Milligan & Mikel Janin.*

The JLI has one last chance to stop the alien powerhouse known as Peraxxus in ***Justice League International #5*** by *Dan Jurgens, Aaron Lopresti, & Matt Ryan*, before he and his SignalMen bring about the end of the world. Can the team get it together, or will they bear the responsibility for Earth's destruction?

In ***Legion Lost #5*** by *Fabian Nicieza & Pete Woods*, the time-stranded Legionnaires must do battle with Alastor, the hulking bio-terrorist who has unleashed his lethal future virus in the present-day DCU!

Legendary artist Walter Simonson joins writer *Paul Levitz* as guest-artist of ***Legion of Super-Heroes #5***, an ambitious single-issue story that walks you through a day in the life of the Legion, checking in with every single member along the way!

Haly's Circus hits New Orleans in ***Nightwing #5*** by *Kyle Higgins, Eddy Barrows, & Paolo Siqueria.* But how does a voodoo ritual gone bad factor in? Find out as Nightwing takes the Big Easy!

Max Lord and Sarge Steel decide that, in order to capture O.M.A.C., sacrifices will have to be made. Meanwhile, since O.M.A.C. is still on the loose, S.H.A.D.E. decides to send in their top agent, Frankenstein, in ***OMAC #5*** by *Dan DiDio, Keith Giffen, & Scott Koblish.*

Is Krona alive? Because if he truly lives again, the Red Lantern leader Atrocitus can finally getting the revenge he's craved an eternity for! And what does Bleez know about this seeming resurrection? She's not telling, which only stokes Atrocitus's fury in ***Red Lanterns #5*** by *Peter Milligan, Ed Benes, & Rob Hunter.*

Mitch Shelley is dead in *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Fernando Blanco's* ***Resurrection Man #5.*** Again. But this time, things are different. He's no longer in the realm of the living. Now he must find a way to escape the realm he's trapped in before a host of celestial beings finds him…

In the tradition of the "Times Past" issues of ***Starman,*** *James Robinson, Darwyn Cooke, & J. Bone* present a story of revenge, murder and betrayal set in the 1940s in ***The Shade #4.***

Shocking connections begin to be revealed between the mysterious Hawkins family tragedy and Jow Piranha's Bang Baby Army in ***Static Shock #5*** by *Scott McDaniel & Andy Owens.*

Midnighter takes on Prince of Lies, Harry Tanner, in ***Stormwatch #5*** by *Paul Cornell & Miguel Sepulveda.* As Adam One stands trial before the shadow cabinet, Stormwatch loses two members, and the mystery horn from ***Superman #1*** reappears to deliver a final page that will change ***Stormwatch*** forever!

After returning from a string of hellish missions, the surviving members of the Suicide Squad are forced to undertake one last task in *Adam Glass & Federico Dallocchio's* ***Suicide Squad #5***: stop an all-out riot inside Belle Reve Penitentiary, the roughest Super-Villain prison on the planet!

On the eve of his conflict with the Teen Titans, Superboy will make the first truly moral choice of his short life – though he might not be prepared to live with the consequences! Find out what that choice is in ***Superboy #5*** by *Scott Lobdell, R.B. Silva, & Rob Lean.*

Supergirl's nightmare is finally over – she has left Earth and has somehow made it back to Argo City! But it's not the home she remembers, and a deadly new adversary stands in her way. *Michael Green, Mike Johnson, & Mahmud Asrar* introduce Maxima in ***Supergirl #5.***

The aliens who have been attacking The Man of Steel these past few issues unite to purge the Earth of Superman in ***Superman #5*** by *George Pérez & Jesus Merino.* The worst part? The people of Metropolis seem to agree with the aliens!

Alec and Abby bring the fight to Sethe's chosen servant in the blood-slicked slaughterhouses of west Texas in *Scott Snyder & Yanick Paquette's* ***Swamp Thing #5.*** But while the battle is joined in America, the war may already be lost in the jungles of Brazil, as danger approaches for the Parliament of Trees…

In their first battle as a team, The Teen Titans square off against N.O.W.H.E.R.E.'s most powerful weapon... The Superboy! But can the cunning of Red Robin, the speed of Kid Flash and the psionic might of Bunker stop a threat that has already taken out the powerhouse known as Wonder Girl? *Scott Lobdell, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund* answer that question in ***Teen Titans #5.***

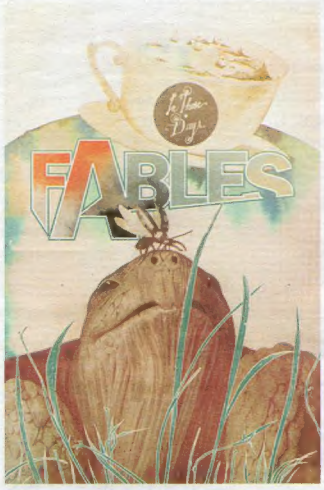
In *Nick Spencer & Wes Craig's* ***T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents #3***, the team is rocked by the death of one of their own. They won't have much time to mourn, though, as a face from the past thought long gone returns!

Wonder Woman returns home to London in *Brian Azzarello & Tony Akins'* ***Wonder Woman #5***… but two of the most powerful gods of the pantheon have come to town as well – and neither of them is leaving without being crowned King of the gods!

Central City in chaos!

DC collected editions (advance solicited for February & March release) include:

- ***Batman: Gates of Gotham TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries, along with ***Batman Annual #28*** and ***Detective Annual #12.***
- ***Batman: Time and the Batman TP,*** collecting ***Batman #s 700-703.***
- ***Batman Vs. Bane TP,*** collecting ***Batman/Bane*** and ***Batman: Bane of the Demon #s 1-4.***
- ***Batman Vs. The Black Glove Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting *Grant Morrison's* ***Batman #s 655-658, 663-669, & 672-675.***
- ***Batman: Year One Deluxe Edition HC (New Printing),*** collecting *Frank Miller & Dave Mazzuchelli's* ***Batman #s 404-407.***
- ***DC Comics Presents: The New 52 #1,*** collecting ***Animal Man #1, Justice League Dark #1, I Vampire #1,*** and ***Swamp Thing #1.***
- ***Deadman Volume 2 TP,*** collecting Deadman tales from ***Brave & Bold #s 79 & 86, Strange Adventures #s 214-216, Aquaman #s 50-52,*** and ***Challengers of the Unknown #74,*** featuring work by *Bob Haney, Robert Kanigher, Neal Adams, Dennis O'Neil, & George Tuska.*
- ***The Flash by Geoff Johns Omnibus Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Flash #s 177-200*** and ***DC First: Flash/Superman #1.***
- ***Hawk & Dove: Ghosts & Demons TP (New Edition),*** collecting the 1988 miniseries by *Karl Kesel, Barbara Kesel, & Rob Liefeld.*
- ***I, Vampire TP,*** collecting tales from ***House of Mystery #s 290, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 302, & 304-319,*** and ***Brave and Bold*** #195.
- ***Justice League: Generation Lost Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***JL:GL #s 1-12.***
- ***Justice Society of America: Monument Point TP,*** collecting ***JSA #s 50-54.***
- ***Legion of Super-Heroes: The Choice TP,*** collecting ***Legion (2010) #s 106.***
- ***Power Girl: Old Friends TP,*** collecting ***Power Girl #s 19-27.***
- ***Showcase Presents Young Love Volume 1 TP,*** collecting 544 pages of romance tales featuring art by *John Romita, Mike Sekowsky, Don Heck, Gene Colan, Jay Scott Pike,* and others.
- ***Superman: The Black Ring Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Action Comics #s 890-895.***
- ***Superman in Action Comics Archives Volume 6 HC,*** collecting Superman stories from ***Action Comics #s 86-102.***
- ***Titans: Broken Promises TP,*** collecting ***Titans #s 33-39*** and ***Titans Annual 2011.***
- ***Wonder Woman: Odyssey Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Wonder Woman #s 607-614.***
- ***Xombi TP,*** collecting ***Xombi #s 1-6*** and ***Brave and the Bold #26.***



Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in January

In ***Fables #113,*** *Bill Willingham* is joined by guest artists *Adam Hughes, Gene Ha, & Karl Kerschl* to present tales of fan-favorite Fables characters in idyllic other times and places.

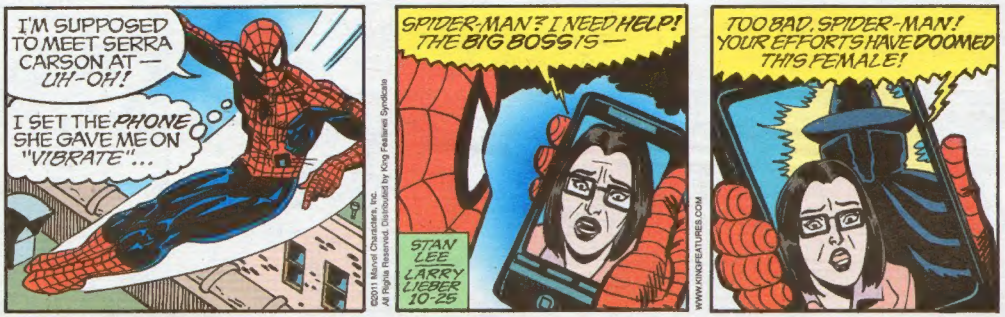
In their sweeping, century-spanning graphic novel ***Gone to Amerikay,*** *Derek McCullough & Colleen Doran* explore the vivid history of Irish émigrés to New York City via three intertwined tales, from a penniless woman raising a daughter alone in the Five Points slum of 1870, to a struggling young artist drawn to the nascent counterculture of 1960, the year America elected its first Irish-Catholic president.

John Constantine is going to Hell and back in *Peter Milligan, Giuseppi Camuncoli, & Stefano Landini's* ***Hellblazer #287***—but this time, it's a favor to his niece Gemma, who happens to be in deep and dirty with London gangster (and Constantine's father-in-law) Terry Greaves.

Jeff Lemire returns as artist with ***Sweet Tooth #29,*** kicking off part one of "Unnatural Habits." While Jeppard, Singh and Gus make plans to head to Alaska, things start to deteriorate for the rest of the group back at the sanctuary in the dam.

- ***Sandman Volume 8: World's End (New Edition) TP,*** collecting ***Sandman #s 51-56.***

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for February and March release) include:


I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET SERRA CARSON AT— UH-OH!
I SET THE PHONE SHE GAVE ME ON "VIBRATE"...
SPIDER-MAN?! I NEED HELP! THE BIG BOSS IS—
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-26
TOO BAD, SPIDER-MAN! YOUR EFFORTS HAVE DOOMED THIS FEMALE!
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•***Hellblazer: Phantom Pains TP,*** collecting ***Hellblazer #s 276-282.***
•***iZombie Volume 3: Six Feet Under and Rising TP,*** collecting ***iZombie #s 13-17.***
•***Rat Catcher TP,*** a softcover edition of the *Andy Diggle-Victor Ibanez* noir graphic novel.

Coming in January/February from DC Direct

The Black Canary's evil counterpart is the inspiration for the ***Ame-Comi White Canary PVC Figure.***

Jim Fletcher & Sam Greenwell venture into the ***Blackest Night*** for inspiration for their ***Ame-Comi Wonder Woman As Star Sapphire PVC Figure.***

Mike Mignola's Batman statue sold out upon release back in 2006, but there are still oodles of fans looking for a copy, which is why DC is offering the ***Batman Black and White Statue: Batman by Mike Mignola Variant Edition.***

Sergio Aragones' offbeat art is the inspiration for the most offbeat black and white statue yet. ***Batman Black and White Statue: Batman By Sergio Aragones*** captures the offbeat style of the legendary ***Mad*** cartoonist.

The Dark Knight takes on a metallic sheen in the ***Batman (Patina) Mini-Statue,*** designed by *Jim Lee* and sculpted by *Tim Bruckner.*

Catwoman strikes a seductive pose atop the Bat-Signal in the ***Catwoman 1:4 Scale Museum Quality Statue,*** which includes hand-painted resin parts and measures approximately 19" high.

Gary Frank supplies the design art for ***Heroes of the DC Universe Series 2: Swamp Thing Statue,*** sculpted by *Jean St. Jean.*

Terry Dodson's art is the inspiration for the ***Wonder Woman Vs. Superman Mini-Statue,*** an affordable edition of the sculpture by *Ray Villafane.*

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in January

Belgian comics creator *Hermann's* acclaimed ***Afrika*** is available in English for the first time this spring (this book is advance solicited for March release). The story follows a European expatriate turned guardian of a Tanzanian wildlife preserve who becomes involved in a struggle against government corruption.

A mysterious illness is turning London citizens into emotionless killers. The Watcher's Files, which may be the key to unraveling this

mystery, have led Angel and Faith to seek out a demon from Giles's past for answers in ***Angel & Faith #6*** by *Christos Gage & Rebekah Isaacs.*

Axe Cop returns with a collection of new, exciting, and unpredictable stories in ***Axe Cop Volume 3 TP.*** This unpredictable and manic series is written by six-year-old *Malachai Nicolle* and drawn by his Eisner Award–nominated thirty-year-old brother *Ethan Nicolle.*

Buffy's dreams have become all too real lately... but something is telling Buffy that there is more to her dreams than meets the eye . . . and that her greatest fears may yet become reality in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 9 #5,*** a standalone tale by *Andrew Chambliss, Karl Moline, & Andy Owens.*

Science-fiction veterans *Joseph Mallozzi & Paul Mullie,* best known for their work on television's ***Stargate*** franchise and ***Transporter: The Series,*** create a new and exciting universe in ***Dark Matter,*** a suspenseful tale that pits the crew of a derelict ship against a relentless android bent on their destruction.

Thoth-Amon confronts the Cimmerian in ***King Conan: The Phoenix on the Sword #1,*** an adaptation of *Robert E. Howard's* first Conan story produced by *Tim Truman & Tomas Giorello.*

When a tribe of phantom Indians start scalping policemen, Hellboy's crime-fighting hero Lobster Johnson and his allies take on these foes and their gangster cronies in ***Lobster Johnson: The Burning Hand #1*** by *Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, & Tonci Zonjic.*

A platoon of Clone Troopers find their plans undone by faulty intelligence and bad luck, leaving stranded deep inside hostile territory, in ***Star Wars: The Clone Wars—Enemy Within,*** a digest-sized adventure by *Jeremy Barlow & Brian Koschak.*

The Republic and the Mandalorians are at war! Jedi are joining the fight, despite the non-interference stance of the Council. One Jedi, however, has found himself on the front lines against his wishes—the peace-loving Zayne Carrick has been drafted in ***Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic—War #1*** by *John Jackson Miller & Andrea Mutti.*

Dark Horse collected editions (advance solicited for February and March release) include:

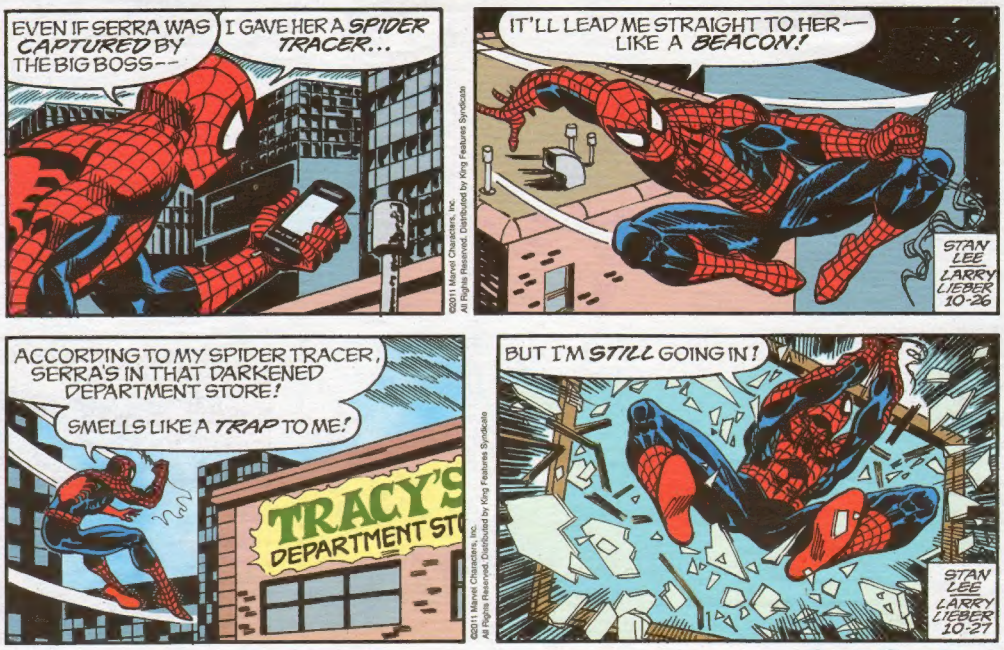
•***BPRD: Plague of Frogs Volume 1 TP,*** the first of four volumes collecting the entire ***Plague of Frogs*** saga featuring over 400 pages of material by *Mike Mignola, Christopher Golden, Geoff Johns, Michael Avon Oeming, Guy Davis,* and others.
•***The Chronicles of Kull Volume 5: Dead Men of the Deep & Other Stories TP,*** collecting ***Kull the Conqueror V3 #s 3-10*** with original colors digitally restored.
•***The Compleat Terminal City TP,*** collecting all fourteen issues of the original *Dean Motter-Michael Lark* series and its sequel.
•***Crime Does Not Pay Archives Volume One HC,*** a 272-page collection of the first four issues of the hard to find Golden Age comic that was a favorite target of *Fredric Wertham* and others.
•***Doctor Spektor Archives Volume 4 HC,*** collecting ***The Occult Files of Doctor Spektor #s 19-25*** and oodles of bonuses.
•***Mighty Samson: Judgment TP,*** collecting ***Mighty Samson #s 1-4.***
•***The Monstermen and Other Scary Stories HC,*** collecting *Gary Gianni's* stunning horror series.
•***Star Wars: The Clone Wars—The Enemy Within TP,***
•***Star Wars: Jedi Volume One—The Dark Side TP,*** a 120-page collection pitting Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn against a civil war on the homeworld of his Padawan Xanatos.

Master sculptor *Joe Menna* utilizes BioWare's game files to create the ***Dragon Age II: Flemeth Dragon Statue.***

Dark Horse continues their ***Marvel Classic Character*** syroco-style statue line with ***Fantastic Four #: Human Torch,*** limited to 1000 numbered pieces.

Coming Comics—Image in January

When headless corpses start to appear on the first night of the full moon, ace detective Johnny P. Sartre smells a rat… but what he finds is even less pleasant, as *David Hine & Shaky Kane* reveal in ***Bulletproof Coffin: Disinterred #1.***


EVEN IF SERRA WAS CAPTURED BY THE BIG BOSS--
I GAVE HER A SPIDER TRACER...
IT'LL LEAD ME STRAIGHT TO HER— LIKE A BEACON!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-26
ACCORDING TO MY SPIDER TRACER, SERRA'S IN THAT DARKENED DEPARTMENT STORE!
SMELLS LIKE A TRAP TO ME!
TRACY'S
DEPARTMENT ST
BUT I'M STILL GOING IN!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-27
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Cover Girls collects some of the best cover and interior art by *Guillem March*, including more than 100 full-color images never before seen in the US.

Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips blend noir drama and Lovecraftean horror in ***Fatale #1.*** A reporter in 2012 stumbles on a secret that leads him down the darkest path imaginable... to a seductive woman on the run since 1935, a mobster who may be an immortal demon monster, and the stories of all the doomed men caught in their decades-long struggle.

Ted McKeever presents a tale of poultry processing, corporate villainy, a tattooed baby gang, a beach monster, and more in ***Mondo #1.***

The unlikely couple of Nancy and Lucifer are back in ***Nancy in Hell (on Earth) #1*** by *El Torres & Enrique Lopez Lorenzana.* After escaping from Hell, the chainsaw-wielding hottie finds that the Gates of Hades remained open, and all kind of demons are pouring out on Earth. Guess whose responsibility it is to make things right?...

The distant future Earth is inhabited by alien settlers that feed off of the ape-men mankind has devolved into. John Prophet awakes from cryosleep on a mission to restart the human empire in ***Prophet #21,*** *Brandon Graham & Simon Ray's* continuation of the Extreme Studios series.

A mentally troubled man is suddenly empowered with the ability to leave his physical body in "ghost" form and manipulate people in strange and disturbing ways. With this incredible power, will he control his demons...or discover even more? Find out in ***Whispers #1*** by *Joshua Luna.*

Image collected editions include:

- ***Artifacts Deluxe HC,*** a 448-page oversized hardcover collecting ***Artifacts #s 0-13*** and ***Artifacts: Origins.***
- ***Avengelyne Volume 1: Devil in the Flesh HC,*** collecting ***Avengelyne #s 1-6.***
- ***Blue Estate Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Blue Estate #s 5-8.***
- ***The Darkness: Accursed Volume 6 TP,*** collecting ***The Darkness #s 90-95.***
- ***Fractured Fables TP,*** a softcover edition of the offbeat and irreverent retelling of familiar fairy tales.
- ***Intrepids Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Intrepids #s 1-6.***

- ***Invincible Volume 15: Get Smart TP,*** collecting ***Invincible #s 85-90.***
- ***Red Spike Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Red Spike #s 1-5.***
- ***Spawn Compendium Volume 1 TP,*** a hefty 984-page black and white collection of ***Spawn #s 1-49.***
- ***Spawn: New Beginnings Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Spawn #s 207-212.***
- ***The Vault Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***The Vault #s 1-3.***

PREVIEWS One Catalog. TONS of Cool Stuff

From comic books to action figures, games to DVDs, there's something for everyone in the NOVEMBER issue of *PREVIEWS*!

COVER STORY

TRANSFORMERS ONGOING/INFESTATION 2
IDW Publishing

This month, IDW Publishing re-launches their ***Transformers*** franchise with two all-new ongoing series, and if that wasn't enough, they also unleash a second ***Infestation*** upon their licensed universes, including the *TMNT*, *G.I. Joe* and *Danger Girl*! And IDW is giving you the chance to choose between both on this month's ***PREVIEWS*** cover with the print run split between both awesome debuts! Choose your favorite or collect 'em both!

GREEN LANTERN #5
DC Comics

Hal Jordan and Sinestro fight side-by-side on this issue's cover, in the conclusion of their invasion of the planet Korugar! Can these two diametrically opposed Lanterns put aside their differences long enough to liberate the world from the fearful grip of the Sinestro Corps? Find out in ***Green Lantern #5,*** part of the "New 52" from DC Comics!

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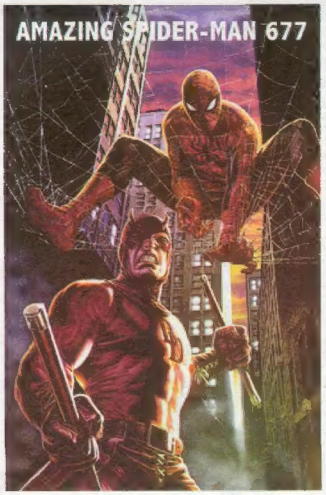

Coming Comics—Marvel in January

Spider-Man and Daredevil team up in ***Amazing Spider-Man #677*** by *Mark Waid & Emma Rios* and ***Daredevil #8*** by *Mark Waid & Kano*. When Black Cat is arrested, Matt Murdock is the only lawyer who will take here case... and thus begins the next great love triangle of the Marvel Universe...

Witness Storm's first adventures as an Avenger in ***Avengers #21*** by *Brian Bendis & Renato Guedes*. And they'll need her help when they face of against the combined forces of Hydra, AIM, the Hand, and H.A.M.M.E.R. under the leadership of Norman Osborn?

Simon Williams and his Revengers believe the Avengers' time is up—and the bring the fight to the Avengers' front door in ***Avengers Annual #1*** by *Brian Bendis & Gabriele Dell'Otto*.

The Hulk takes on Banner in *Christos Gage & Tom Grummett's* ***Avengers Academy #24*** as Banner unleashes an army of Hulked-out monsters.

Allan Heinberg & Jim Cheung present the final fate of the Scarlet Witch—and the funeral of an Avenger— in ***Avengers: The Children's Crusade*** #9, setting the stage for what is to come in 2012.

Deadpool joins the hunt for Marcus Johnson in ***Battle Scars #3*** by *Christopher Yost & Scot Eaton*. But Marcus Johnson is on his own hunt—for Taskmaster, who knows more than he's saying...

The Runaways guest-star in ***Daken: Dark Wolverine #s 19 & 20,*** the conclusion of the Claws Killer saga.

Adventure abounds in ***Disney•Pixar Presents Cars—Route 66 Dash,*** as the Cars crew pairs up and goes on a cross-country journey on Route 66 in a race from Radiator Springs to downtown Chi-Car-Go.

The relentless Covenant begins the invasion of the planet Reach in *Brian Reed & Felix Ruiz's* ***Halo: Fall of Reach—Invasion,*** a four-issue miniseries. As their forces begin to overwhelm the UNSC, it becomes apparent that it is not a question of *if* the Covenant will destroy Reach... but *when*.

The Son of Satan guest-stars in *Kieron Gillen & Richard Elson's* ***Journey Into Mystery #633*** as fallout from ***Fear Itself*** leaves thousands trapped in deadly fever dreams around the world.

In ***The Mighty Thor #10*** by *Matt Fraction & Pasqual Ferry*, Thor struggles to free himself before the DemoGorge consumes him and a starship full of other fallen gods.

Spinning out of Spider-Island, The secrets of the brand new Scarlet Spider stand revealed in ***Scarlet Spider #1*** by *Christopher Yost & Ryan Stegman*. So who is the new webbed wonder – and why has he come to face corruption in Houston, Texas?

Rick Remender takes over as regular writer with ***Secret Avengers #21.1,*** as he and artist *Patrick Zircher* dispatch Captain America and Hawkeye on a mission to a country run by criminals, for criminals.

In *Brian Bendis & Chris Samnee's* ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #6,*** Miles gets lessons on how to be a superhero... from Peter Parker?! And he's going to need them, because the Ultimate Scorpion is ready to attack.

Ultimate Falcon makes his triumphant return in ***Ultimate Comics The Ultimates #6*** by *Jonathan Hickman & Esad Ribic*.

The New X-Men make their valiant last stand against Stryker in ***Ultimate Comics X-Men #6*** by *Nick Spencer & Paco Medina*. Meanwhile, the Nimrod Sentinels make their move, exacting a deadly toll on mutantkind.

Return to the Age of Apocalypse as the AOA X-Men make their final stand against Weapon X in ***Uncanny X-Force #19.1*** by *Rick Remender & Billy Tan*, which sets the stage for ***Age of Apocalypse #1,*** the new ongoing series set in the Age of Apocalypse. Then the team journeys to Otherworld in ***Uncanny X-Force #20*** for an adventure that guest-stars Captain Britain and the Captain Britain Corps.

Marvel does the numbers game once again with ***Wolverine #300*** by *Jason Aaron & Adam Kubert*. Wolverine travels to Tokyo to confront his most dangerous enemy yet... nd a new Silver Samurai rises to take his place—along with Wolverine's daughter!

Wolverine takes on Kid Omega for dominance of the Jean Grey School in ***Wolverine & the X-Men: Alpha & Omega #1,*** the kickoff of a five-part series by *Brian Wood, Mark Brooks, & Rolan Boschi*.

Wolverine guest-stars in ***X-Factor #230*** by *Peter David & Emanuela Lupacchino*, a ***ReGenesis*** tie-in.

Rogue, Gambit, Iceman, Frenzy and Rachel Summers take up their posts as teachers and protectors of Wolverine's School...just in time to defend it from invading N'Garai demons in ***X-Men Legacy #260.1,*** produced by the new creative team of *Christos Gage & David Baldeon*. Then, in ***X-Men Legacy #261,*** classic villain Exodus returns.

Marvel collected editions include:

•***Alpha Flight by Greg Pak & Fred Van Lente Volume 1 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Alpha Flight #s 0.1 & 1-4.***

•***Amazing Spider-Man Omnibus Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 39-67 & Annual #s 3-5, Spectacular Spider-Man Magazine #s 1 & 2,*** and material from ***Not Brand Echh #s 2, 6, & 11.***

•***Astonishing Spider-Man & Wolverine TP,*** collecting the six-part miniseries.

•***Astonishing X-Men: Children of the Brood Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Astonishing X-Men #s 38, 40, 42, 43,*** and more.

•***Avengers by Brian Michael Bendis Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Avengers #s 7-12 & 12.1.***

•***Avengers: Hawkeye TP,*** collecting classic tales from Hawkeye's early days.

•***Avengers: Solo Avengers Classic Volume 1 TP,*** collecting ***Solo Avengers #s 1-10.***

•***Avengers: The Serpent Crown Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Avengers #s 141-144 & 147-149.***

•***Captain America by Ed Brubaker Volume 21 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Captain America #s 1-5.***

•***Daken/X-23: Collision TP,*** collecting ***Dark Wolverine #s 5-9, X-23 #s 7-9,*** and more.

•***Daredevil by Mark Waid Volume 1 Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Daredevil #s 1-6.***

•***Daredevil by Ed Brubaker & Michael Lark Ultimate Collection Book 1 TP,*** collecting ***Daredevil #s 82-93.***

•***Dark Tower: The Gunslinger—The Battle of Tull Premiere HC,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries.

•***Deadpool Classic Volume 6 TP,*** collecting ***Deadpool #s 34-45*** and more.

THE SPIDER TRACER I GAVE SERRA INDICATES SHE'S BEHIND THAT STEEL DOOR!
FINANCE OFFICE
PRIVATE
NO WAY EVEN SPIDER-MAN CAN RIP THROUGH ALL THAT STEEL!
BUT THE WALL ISN'T MADE OF STEEL!
THRAKK!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-28
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•*Defenders: Tournament of Heroes #1,* collecting *Defenders #s 62-65.*
•*Ender's Game Ultimate Collection TP,* collecting *Ender's Game: Battle School* and *Ender's Game: Command School.*
•*Essential Marvel Two-in-One Volume 4 TP,* collecting *Marvel Two-In-One #s 78-98, 100, & Annual #s 6-7.*
•*Fear Itself: Avengers Premiere HC,* collecting *Avengers #s 13-17* and *New Avengers #s 14-16.*
•*Fear Itself: Ghost Rider Premiere HC,* collecting *Ghost Rider #s 0.1 & 1-5.*
•*Fear Itself: Heroes for Hire Premiere HC,* collecting *Heroes for Hire #s 6-12.*
•*Fear Itself: Journey Into Mystery Premiere HC,* collecting *Journey Into Mystery #s 622-626* and more.
•*Fear Itself: Thunderbolts Premiere HC,* collecting *Thunderbolts #s 158-162.*
•*FF by Jonathan Hickman Volume 2 Premiere HC,* collecting *FF #s 6-11.*
•*Ghost Rider by Daniel Way Ultimate Collection TP,* collecting *Ghost Rider #s 1-19.*
•*Ghost Rider, Cycle of Vengeance #1,* collecting *Marvel Spotlight #5, Ghost Rider (1990) #1,* and *Ghost Rider (2006) #1.*

•*Marvel Firsts: The 1970s Volume 1 TP,* collecting the first appearances of Dracula, Man-Thing, Luke Cage, Tigra, and many others.
•*Marvel Masterworks Captain America Volume 6 HC,* collecting *Captain America #s 137-148.*
•*Marvel Masterworks: The Uncanny X-Men Volume 4 TP,* collecting *X-Men #s 122-131 & Annual #3.*
•*Marvel Point One II TP,* collecting the Point One issues of *Alpha Flight, Avengers Academy, New Avengers, X-Factor,* and many others.
•*Mystic: The Tenth Apprentice TP,* collecting the four-part miniseries.
•*New Defenders Volume 1 TP,* collecting *Defenders #s 122-124* and *New Defenders #s 125-131.*
•*Red Skull: Incarnate TP,* collecting the five-part series.
•*Spider-Man: The Complete Ben Reilly Epic Book 3 TP,* collecting *Amazing Spider-Man #s 409-410, Sensational Spider-Man #s 2-3, Spectacular Spider-Man #s 231-233,* and much more.
•*Spider-Man: Spider-Island HC,* collecting *Amazing Spider-Man #s 666-673, Venom #s 6-8,* and more.
•*Strikeforce Morituri Volume 1 TP,* collecting *Strikeforce Morituri #s 1-13.*
•*The Twelve Volume 1 TP,* collecting *The Twelve #s 1-6.*
•*Ultimate Comics Avengers by Mark Millar Omnibus HC,* collecting *Ultimate Avengers #s 1-6, Ultimate Avengers 2 #s 1-6, Ultimate Avengers 3 #s 1-6,* and *Ultimate Comics Avengers Vs. New Ultimates #s 1-6.*
•*Ultimate Comics Hawkeye by Jonathan Hickman Premiere HC,* collecting *Ultimate Comics Hawkeye #s 1-4.*
•*Wolverine: The Best There Is—Broken Quarantine Premiere HC,* collecting *Wolverine: The Best There Is #s 7-12.*
•*Wolverine: The Best There Is—Contagion TP,* collecting *Wolverine: The Best There Is #s 1-6.*
•*Wolverine Vs. the X-Men TP,* collecting *Wolverine #s 5.1 & 6-9.*
•*X-23 Volume 2: Chaos Theory Premiere HC,* collecting *X-23 #s 10-16.*
•*X-Force: Toy Soldiers Premiere HC,* collecting *X-Force #s 26-31 & Annual #2* and more.
•*X-Men: Fatal Attractions HC,* collecting *Uncanny X-Men #s 298-305 & Annual #17* and much more.
•*X-Men: Mutant Genesis 2.0 HC,* collecting the remastered and recolored *X-Men #s 1-7* by *Chris Claremont, Jim Lee,* and others.

Coming Comics—Dynamite in January

Robert Rodi makes his Dynamite debut, joining artist *Fritz Casas* for ***Kirby: Genesis—Dragonsbane,*** a miniseries that brings together heroes from various cultures and mythologies in a vast magical landscape.

Mark Rahner & Stephen Sadowski put the green warrior Tars Tarkas in the spotlight in ***Warlord of Mars Annual #1,*** offering a very different look at the day Tarkas first met John Carter.

The Lone Ranger rides again, courtesy of *Ande Parks & Esteve Polls,* in ***The Lone Ranger #1.*** The tale follows the Ranger and Tonto as they help a group of settlers in a way that stirs memories in John Reid.

Vampirella crosses paths with the best known of all vampires in ***Vampirella Vs. Dracula #1*** by *Joe Harris & Jean Diaz.* When Dracula comes to America looking for a new base of operations, he discovers that another vampire has beaten him to it!

Dynamite collected editions include:
•*Dreadstar Omnibus Volume 1 Collection TP,* compiling *Dreadstar #s 1-12.*
•*The Lone Ranger/Zorro: The Death of Zorro TP,* collecting the five-part miniseries.
•*Patricia Briggs' Mercy Thompson: Moon Called Volume 2 TP,* collecting *Moon Called #s 5-8.*

Coming Comics—IDW in January

Chuck Dixon & S.L. Gallant present the origin of the Joes' most nefarious adversary in ***Cobra Annual 2012: The Origin of Cobra Commander.***

Andy Hartnell & J. Scott Campbell (along with artist *Chris Madden*) introduce a new Danger Girl to the team in ***Danger Girl: Revolver #1.***

The Transformers Universe is streamlined in January as IDW kicks off the next chapter in the Transformers saga! In ***Transformers: Robots in Disguise #1,*** Bumblebee and his fellow Autobots struggle to maintain control of a world without Optimus Prime. Meanwhile, in ***Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye #1,*** the Transformers embark on an epic quest to the farthest reaches fo the Transformers Universe.

Ann Nocenti, Anya Martin, Barbara Kesel, Gail Simone, Colleen Doran, Stephanie Buscema, and many others explore the essence of the heroic in ***Womanthology: Heroic,*** a hardcover compilation of original tales by some of the most talented women working in comics today.

IDW collected editions include:
•***Classic Jurassic Park Volume 4: Return to Jurassic Park TP,*** collecting ***Return to Jurassic Park #s 1-4.***
•***Crawl to Me TP,*** collecting the horror series written by rock musician *Alan Robert.*

•***Crysis TP,*** collecting the terrifying SF miniseries.
•***Danger Girl: The Danger-Sized Treasury Edition,*** an oversized 64-page compilation of ***Danger Girl #s 1 & 2.***
•***Duke Nukem: Glorious Bastard TP,*** collecting the miniseries.
•***GI Joe Yearbook TP,*** collecting all four of the ***GI Joe Yearbooks.***
•***Li'L Abner Volume 4 HC,*** collecting *Al Capp* strips from 1941-1942.
•***Steve Canyon Volume 1 HC: 1947-1948,*** collecting the first two years of the *Milton Caniff* strip shot directly from Caniff's personal set of syndicate proofs.
•***Transformers: Last Stand of the Wreckers HC,*** collecting the tale by *James Roberts & Nick Roche.*

MY SPIDER TRACER IS ON THE FLOOR!
BUT I GAVE IT TO SERRA! SHE'S NOT HERE! WHAT'S GOING ON?
TIK
TIK
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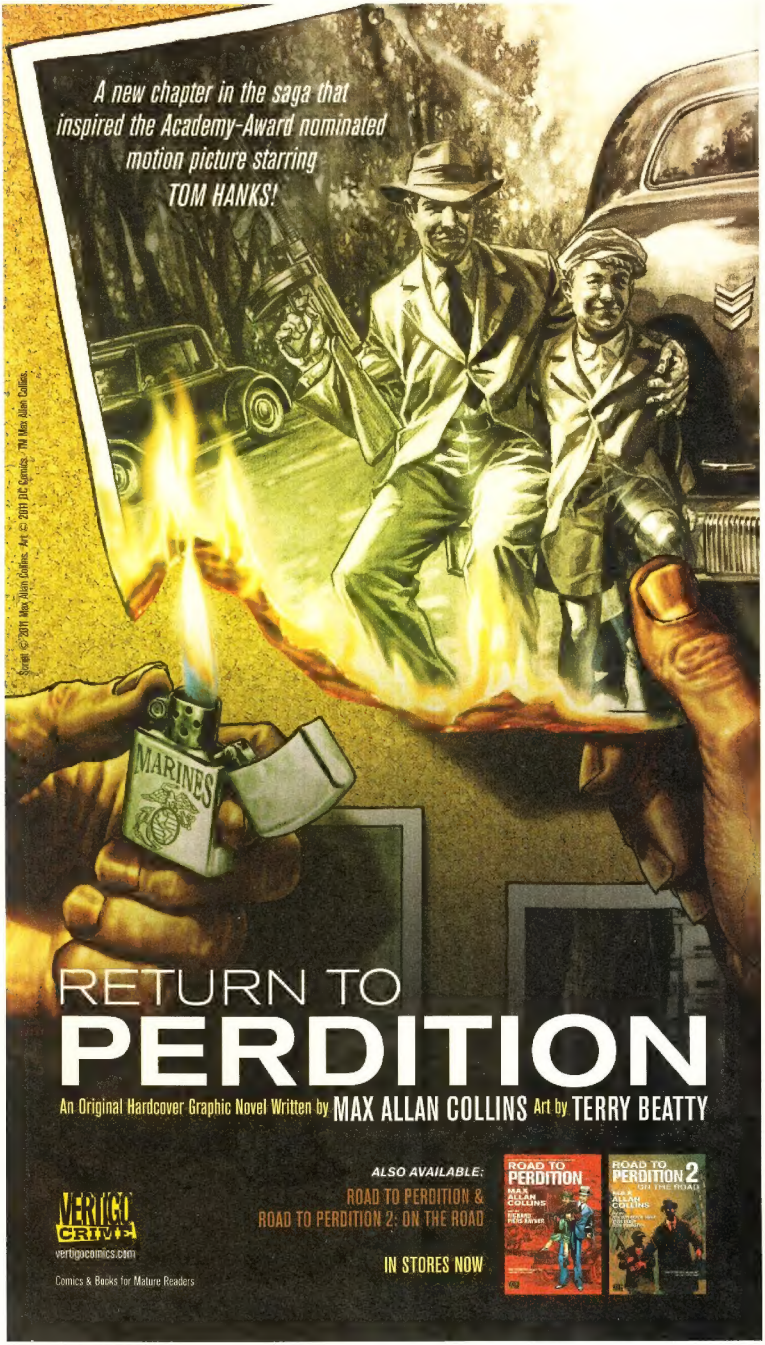
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